

Serial N . 09/025,345

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

PLEASE NOTE THE FILING OF A POWER OF ATTORNEY, REVOCATION OF PRIOR POWER OF ATTORNEY AND REQUEST TO CHANGE CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS FILED HEREWITH. PLEASE DIRECT ALL FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH APPLICANTS' UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY.

Amendment to Specification

The first paragraph on page 1 of the specification has been amended to update the status of the related applications referenced therein. No other amendments have been made to the specification.

Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("the Board")

The Decision on Appeal mailed January 31, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 40, 78, and 81 through 117 are currently pending in the application. Claims 40, 78, 81, 82, and 92 through 113 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected invention(s). Claims 83, 83 and 116, which depend from claim 1, were indicated as including allowable subject matter on page 2 of the Examiner's Answer. The patentability of Claims 1, 85 through 91, 114, 115 and 117 was considered by the Board.

The Board did not sustain the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 rejections of claims 1, 85-91, 114, 115, and 117 based on U.S. Patent No. 2,220,891 to Cook et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,925,600 to Hommel et al., or U.S. Patent No. 3,921,497 to Christmann et al., but affirmed the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claim 1 over U.S. Patent No. 3,138,498 to Rausch.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 40, 78, 81 and 82 and amended claims 83, 84, 85 and 116 into independent form, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

Serial No. 09/025,345

Prosecution Subsequent to the Decision of the Board

Applicants acknowledge, with sincere appreciation, the telephone conference with Examiner Miller on March 27, 2003 wherein the change of responsibility from prior counsel to Applicants' undersigned attorney was discussed, as well as Applicants' undersigned attorney's intention to file the present Amendment in light of the Decision of the Board in a good-faith effort to place the application in condition for allowance.

Since the current status of the application is that no claims stand allowed *per se* and claims 83, 84, 85 through 91 and 114 through 117 were deemed, either by the Examiner (as to claims 83, 84 and 116) or by the Board (claims 85 through 91, 114, 115 and 117) to contain allowable subject matter, Applicants have taken the following actions pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 1214.06 for the convenience of the Examiner and to avoid the necessity of issuing another Office Action:

- 1) Claims 1, 40, 78, 81 and 82 have been canceled.
- 2) Claims 83, 84, 85 and 116 have been amended to place these claims in independent form, to eliminate excess verbiage and to improve the grammar thereof.

Applicants respectfully note that the amendments to claims 83, 84, 85 and 116 do not constitute *verbatim* insertion of the language of claim 1, from which each of these claims previously depended. The reasons for the manner of amendment are indicated below.

As to claims 83 and 84, while claim 1 recited the presence of "a complex of a metal cation and a neutral ligand," each of claims 83 and 84 recited the presence of "at least one complex of a metal cation and at least one neutral ligand which comprises ammonia," the language of claims 83 and 84 thus each being inconsistent to a minor extent with claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 83 and 84 in accordance with their original language rather than with the language of claim 1, in light of the Board's indication of allowability of claims 83 and 84, in a good-faith effort to place these claims in condition for allowance.

As to all of the amended claims (83, 84, 85 and 116), Applicants did not include the recitation in claim 1 of "such that when the complex combusts, a mixture of gases suitable for

Serial No. 09/025,345

use in deploying an air bag or balloon from the supplemental restraint system is produced" as being redundant with the language already in the preamble of each claim, being inherent in the operability of the claimed solid gas generating composition for its intended purpose, and as failing to lend further patentability to the claimed solid gas generating composition. Should the Examiner disagree with Applicants' position, Applicants will furnish another amendment inserting the omitted language.

Claims 86 through 91, 114, 115 and 117 are allowable as depending from claim 85 as amended herein.

Applicants note that claims 92-113 which were previously withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, have been reproduced herein for the convenience of the Examiner as now depending from allowable independent claim 85. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of each of claims 92 through 113 as depending from an allowable independent claim.

Serial N . 09/025,345

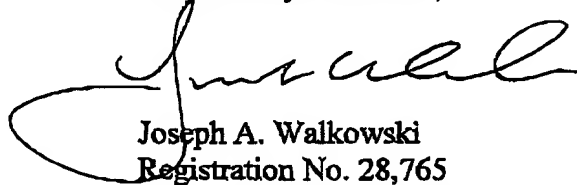
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 83, 84, 85 and 116 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 83-117 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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